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OGC 73-1073

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14 June 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: ✓ Mr. John Warner, OGC
Mr. [] OLC

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Forwarded herewith are copies of memoranda prepared by [] reporting his participation in discussions between Mr. Helms and John Ehrlichman concerning review of certain documents for declassification. There is also a memorandum (a copy of which we had in our files) signed by W. E. Colby. The documents are listed below:

a. A one-page memorandum of 1 October 1971 memorandum on "Declassification Exercise" by []

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b. A longer memorandum, same date and same subject, by the same author.

c. 19 October 1971 memorandum on "Declassification Exercise," specifically on "Record on Vietnam," by []

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d. 19 December 1972 memorandum by W. E. Colby titled "Retention of Documents by Mr. John D. Ehrlichman," with a copy of a receipt.

[]

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S. D. Breckinridge

OGCSUBJ: SECURITY FOI164 2 CLASSIFICATION & DECLASSIFICATION

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1 October 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Declassification Exercise

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Mr. Helms met this morning with Mr. John Ehrlichman of the President's staff. He described to Ehrlichman the nature of the documents available for review on the 1958 Lebanon crisis, the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, and the 1961 Bay of Pigs operation. Ehrlichman asked that all of the displayed documents, except one, be delivered to him in the White House. At 0905 I delivered the documents to [] in Executive Registry and gave instructions on delivery. The documents are identified as follows:

SNIE 36-4-58: "Consequences of Possible US Courses of Action Respecting Lebanon," 5 June 1958, burn copy of Copy No. 184.

SNIE 36.4-1-58: "The Lebanese Crisis", 14 June 1958, burn copy of Copy No. 184.

"Report to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board on Intelligence Community Activities Relating to the Cuban Arms Build-up (14 April through 14 October 1962)," [] Copy No. 15

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Volume II of Annexes thereto,	Copy No. 1
" III	" 1
" IV	" 1

(Ehrlichman did not want volume I of the annexes, which consists solely of the "Interrogation Guide: Cuba")

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"Inspector General's Survey of the Cuban Operation, October 1961"; "An Analysis of the Cuban Operation by the Deputy Director (Plans), 18 January 1962"; "Related Memoranda," including TS 173040 and TS181884, Copy No. 2.

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1 October 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Declassification Exercise

1. I first became involved in the declassification exercise on 31 August 1971 although I did not know at that time what was going on. Col. White called on that date and asked if I knew the composition of the group appointed by the President in 1961 to review CIA's role in the Bay of Pigs operation. The scurrying around that I did on the basis of that query is recorded in a memorandum of 1 September 1971 which is bound in the inside cover of Copy No. 6 of the IG report of the Cuban Operation. *(Now in this folder.)*

2. Col. White called on 22 September and asked me to bring him a copy of the internal IG report on the Bay of Pigs operation. I took him our file copy No. 2. He asked me to determine the present whereabouts of the seven copies originally distributed of the internal IG report. I gave him such a list on 23 September, a copy is attached.

3. Col. White called a. opening of business on 24 September and asked me to come up. He had with him a stack of documents about 10 or 12 inches high. He asked if I was aware of the reason for his interest in what had been going on in recent weeks. I told him that ^{was} ~~did~~ not. He said that there are two general lines of action under way. One is a government-wide review of classified materials which might now be declassified for publishing in the Department of State's Foreign Affairs Series. The other line consists of a personal interest by the President in reviewing official documents relating to certain well known episodes with a view toward their possible declassification and release. There are four episodes of particular interest.

- a. The landing in Lebanon.
- b. The overthrowing of Diem.
- c. The Bay of Pigs operation, both the Taylor report and the IG report.

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d. The Cuban Missile Crisis.

4. Col. White has been pulling together documents relating to these episodes and he told the Director yesterday what he had found. Ed Proctor had brought in two SNIE's on Lebanon. These are the only important papers that we have on that episode. Bill Colby will be responsible for pulling together what we have on the Diem incident. I mentioned in this connection that there are two important papers in existence. One is the Record of Vietnam which had a limited distribution, and the other is a paper prepared specifically for the Director and distributed to him only in one copy. Col. White knew of the existence of both papers.

5. Col. White said that we could forget about the Green report since there are no copies in the Agency. This leaves us primarily with the Cuban Missile Crisis and the IG report on the Bay of Pigs. Col. White asked that I read all of these volumes over the weekend with a view toward determining what could and could not be released. Of even more importance is the decision as to what we can give the President for his personal review in the way of unvarnished versions. I should keep an eye out for anything that would reflect adversely on the Agency as a consequence of the publicity attending the release of the documents. There is no need to worry about the papers relating to the matches among those no longer here.

6. I came in over the weekend, read all the documents, and wrote brief blind memorandums calling attention to the more sensitive portions of the text. I delivered the material and the blind memos to Col. White first thing Monday morning.

7. Col. White called me at home on the early evening of 28 September and told me that the Director would like to meet with me at 0845 the following morning. He planned to accompany me. At the last minute the Director called and postponed the meeting until 1130. I met with the Director at that time for about 45 minutes. Col. White was not present. The Director said that John Ehrlichman was coming out to see him probably not before Friday morning, and that he would have to do some thinking about the documents to decide on what his recommendations would be. I ran over for him in considerable detail the various sensitive aspects of all of the documents. Essentially I read selectively from the blind memos.

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8. The Director said that he had settled on Record of Vietnam as the best of our documents on the Diem incident but that he would have to think awhile on whether it should be sent to the President.

9. The Director was much interested in [] report on the Cuban Operation and was worried about the fact of its being a CS historical paper. He thought it imprudent for us to let it out of the Agency as an historical paper since this might only lead to calls for other histories. He asked that I have the document altered to remove all traces of its being an historical record.

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10. Bill Colby had done some work on Record of Vietnam principally adding to it a glossary of terminology. He also had prepared a draft memorandum to the President forwarding Record of Vietnam. The Director gave me Colby's draft memo and asked that I expand it to cover all of the documents under consideration. Attached is a note of 29 September with a series of squibs representing the guidance the Director gave me on writing the memo.

11. The Director asked that I stand by and be prepared to attend his meeting with Ehrlichman. He specifically asked that I not take the initiative in any conversation, merely being present to answer any ~~direct~~ questions that the Director might have. I assured him that I would keep my neck tucked in.

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12. Immediately after leaving the Director I took [] report to [] in Printing Services Division, and asked him if it would be possible to print a new cover, remove two pages from the volume, and then rebind it with a spline binder. He said he could do this with ease and asked what my deadline was. I told him that I needed it no later than close of business 30 September. Approximately two hours later he called and said it was ready and I picked it up immediately thereafter.

13. The Director called at 1130 hours on 30 September. He is meeting with Ehrlichman at 0830 on 1 October. He asked me to arrive in his office in time to have the documents laid out on his conference room table before 0830 and to stand by while he first met privately with Ehrlichman. He said that he had not yet made up his mind on Record of Vietnam and specifically asked that I not bring my copy of the document to the meeting. He said it would be alright for me to have my notes with me on the other documents.

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14. I went to the Director's office at 0800 hours on 1 October and spread out the documents in the conference room and waited. Ehrlichman arrived at perhaps 0840 and he and Mr. Helms spoke privately in Mr. Helms' office for about ten minutes. They then came into the conference room where I was waiting. Mr. Helms identified each of the documents to Ehrlichman. Helms pointed out that the IG report on the Bay of Pigs was highly controversial and that taken as a whole the volume tells the story as it actually was without any bark on it. Ehrlichman said that he thought the President would like to have all of the material on Lebanon and Cuba with the single exception of Volume I of the annexes to the report to the PFIAB on the Cuban Missile Crisis (that was the "Interrogation Guide: Cuba"). He asked that the material be bundled up and delivered to him in Room 25 in the West Wing of the White House. He asked that he receive it with the least possible delay. We assured him that it would be on its way almost immediately.

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15. As soon as Ehrlichman left I made a list of the documents for my own record. A copy attached. I then delivered the documents to [] in ER and ask that we have them delivered immediately to Ehrlichman by [] courier and with receipts to be obtained. He assured me he would do so.

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16. [] called at 1005 hours on 1 October. The OCI courier was then at the West entrance to the White House. Although the courier was known to the guard, the guard would not admit him without first examining the contents of the package. I told [] that this was not permissible. I asked [] to have [] call Ehrlichman's office and arrange to get the package through the guard unopened. [] called back five minutes later and said it had all been taken care of.

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17. Mr. Helms spoke with me briefly after Ehrlichman left and said that he had not yet made up his mind on Record of Vietnam. He suggested to Ehrlichman that the two of them should meet privately with the President sometime next week to explain the problem to him (the problem is that if a document such as this were to be released neither Mr. Nixon nor any future President could be assured of privacy of conversation with his senior advisors).

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Attachments:

As Stated Above

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19 October 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: General: Declassification Exercise
Specific: Record on Vietnam

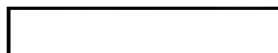
I met with the Director at his request at noon today. The purpose of the meeting was to bring me up to date on the disposition of the documents furnished to the White House.

After the Director's meeting with John Ehrlichmann on 1 October, the Director told me that he and Ehrlichman would meet later with the President to discuss the problems posed by "Record on Vietnam"

At today's meeting, the Director said that he had given the President "Record on Vietnam" and that the President subsequently gave it to Ehrlichman to read. Ehrlichman reported to the Director that he has the document and that it is locked in his safe.

The copy that Ehrlichman has is the ribbon copy, which was originally submitted to Director McCone.

The Director said that he was telling me this so that one other person (than he) would know precisely what the White House has as of this date.



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19 December 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Retention of Documents by Mr. John D. Ehrlichman

During the course of a meeting on other matters on 15 December, Mr. Helms asked Mr. Ehrlichman whether he had finished with the documents listed on the attached so that they could be returned. Mr. Ehrlichman said that he did not have them because they were in the hands of the President. Mr. Ehrlichman said he would inquire of the President whether he wished to return them.

W. E. Colby

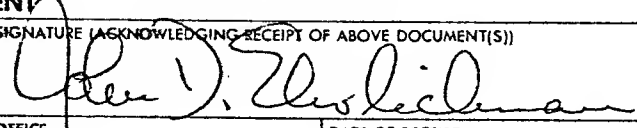
W. E. Colby
Executive Director-Comptroller

Attachment:

Document Receipt #1826 dtd 1 Oct 71

cc: IG

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DOCUMENT RECEIPT		NOTICE TO RECIPIENT Sign and Return as Shown on Reverse Side		COURIER REC. NO. 1826	DATE SENT
SENDER OF DOCUMENT(S) EXECUTIVE REGISTRY ROOM 7-E-12		ROOM	BLDG.	DATE DOCUMENT(S) SENT 1 Oct 71	
DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT(S) SENT					
CIA NO.	DOCUMENT DATE	COPIES	DOCUMENT TITLE (IN BRIEF)	ATTACHMENTS	CLASS
TS 034511	1 machine	copy	[redacted] Vol IV, copy 1 Secret paper, Record of Paramilitary action against castro government, 1 copy (60-61 TS 173040, cy 2		TS/SC
TS 034522	1 machine	copy			
	cy 15				
	Vol II, cy 1				
	Vol III, cy 1				
RECIPIENT					
ADDRESS OF RECIPIENT Mr. John Ehrlichman Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs, The White House			SIGNATURE (ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF ABOVE DOCUMENT(S)) 		
			OFFICE	DATE OF RECEIPT October 1, 1971	

FORM 10-70 615

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OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
1	IG			Jky	
2	Rec'd 1/15/73				
3					
4					
5					
6					
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	
Remarks: <p>For your records. The original is filed in a sealed envelope in Executive Registry.</p>					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.					DATE
O/ExDir					13 Jan 73
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NOTE ATTACHED TO MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD DATED 19 DECEMBER 1972